

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NDJAME 02959 191334Z

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ACTION AF-04

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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, CD, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL ULTIMATUM REGARDING WITHDRAWAL PCVS FROM
FAYA LARGEAU

REF: NDJAMENA 2953

1. PAO HAD INFORMAL CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH MINISTER EDUCATION AND CULTURE N'GANGBET, OSTENSIBLY REGARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR BLUES BAND WHICH ARRIVING NEXT WEEK AND TO WHICH N'GANGBET HAS GIVEN HIS "HIGH PATRONAGE." AT MY SUGGESTION, PAO ENQUIRED WHETHER GIVEN PRESIDENTIAL DECISION REQUIRE WITHDRAWAL PEACE CORPS SHOULD US WITHDRA PCVS FAYA, NGANGBET BELIEVED PROGRAM SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED, PARTICULARLY INVITATIONS TO BE SENT OUT TO SENIOR LEVELS GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING CABINET, FOR EMB RECEPTION/CONCET. N'GANGBET, WHO AS MINISTER EDUCATION HAS PRIME INTEREST IN PCVS AND WHO HAD HAD CORDIAL MEETING PCD NOV 18 AT WHICH NUMBER MINOR ISSUES SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED, SHOCKED AND INCREDULOUS ON LEARNING OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION. HE CONSULTED OBLIQUELY BY TELEPHONE IN PAO'S PRESENCE WITH SMC MEMBER AND ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN ODINGAR WHOM N'GANGBET COSIDERS CLOSE TO MALLOUM AND DETERMINED THAT ODINAGAR ALSO NOT AWARE OF DECISION. N'GANGBET TOLD PAO THAT HE THOUGHT DECISION TAKEN WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION; THAT HE HOPED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 NDJAME 02959 191334Z

THAT IT WOULD BE WITHDRAWN; AND THAT HE WOULD WORK TOWARDS

THIS END. IN MEANTIME, N'GANGBET REQUESTED THAT DECISION NOT BE DISCUSSED IN NDJAMENA AND THAT THOSE US/GOC RELATIONS WITHIN HIS BALIWICK CONTINUE AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.

2. ABOVE RE-ENFORCES MY INITIAL REACTION REFTTEL THAT MALLOUM DECISION MADE IN HASTE AND WITHOUT SUFFICIENT THOUGHT AS TO OVERALL GOC/US RELATIONS. WE HAVE HAD REPORTS IN LAST FEW DAYS THAT PRESIDENT HAS BEEN DRINKING HEAVILY AND HAS TAKEN TO CALLING IN ASSOCIATES AT ODD HOURS OF NIGHT FOR CONSULTATIONS VARIOUS MATTERS. WHILE THIS LIFE STYLE NOT UNKNOWN AMONG OTHER PAST AND PRESENT SENIOR MEMBERS GOC, IT SEEMS TO BE IN THIS CASE MATTER OF CONCERN TO ASSOCIATES. NONETHELESS IT IS VERY MUCH IN USG INTERESTS THAT PC REMAIN CHAD, AS IT IS, FOR THAT MATTER, IN INTEREST GOC. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD THEREFORE SEARCH FOR WAY TO PERMIT PRESIDENT GRACEFULLY AND QUIETLY WITHDRAW HIS ULTIMATUM.

3. PROPOSE THEREFORE THAT I REQUEST APPOINTMENT WITH MFA DRECTOR GENERAL NANASBAYE FOR NOV 20 OR 21 TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER. I WOULD SAY THAT BEFORE MAKING FORMAL RESPONSE I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED SEEK INFORMALLY MFA VIEWS AS TO REASONS BEHIND PRESIDENT'S DECISION AND WHAT EFFECT ITS IMPLEMENTATION, IN VIEW OF GOC, WAS TO HAVE ON GOC/USG RELATIONS. I SHOULE LIKE TO PRESENT NANASBAYE'S THOUGHTS ON ISSUE TO DEPARTMENT, AFTER WHICH, WITH DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE, I SHOULD LIKE OPPORTUNITY PRESENT USG VIEWS DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT.DWYER

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